

Appl. No : 09/438,030  
Filed : November 10, 1999

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112

The Examiner rejected Claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention.

In accordance with the Examiner's suggestion, Applicant has amended Claim 7 as indicated above, and accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that this rejection be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102 - Claims 1-4 and 7

Claims 1-4 and 7 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Frisbie. Claims 1 and 2 have been canceled without prejudice. Furthermore, Claim 3 has been amended to overcome the Frisbie reference as discussed in the Interview and is now in condition for allowance. Claim 7 depends on Claim 3 and is patentable for at least the reasons Claim 3 is patentable, and also because Claim 7 recites a unique combination of features not taught or suggested by the prior art.

Claims 1 and 2 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Imran. Claims 1 and 2 have been canceled and will be pursued in a subsequent continuation application.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103 - Claims 5, 7, and 13

Claims 5, 7, and 13 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Frisbie. These claims all ultimately depend upon newly amended Claim 3 and are patentable for at least the reasons Claim 3 is patentable, and also because these claims recite a unique combination of features not taught or suggested by the prior art.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the indication of allowance regarding Claims 14-20 and 21-30. Claims 6 and 8-12 all ultimately depend upon newly amended Claim 3 and are now in condition for allowance. In addition, the new claims discussed above are also believed to be allowable.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that the newly amended and added claims overcome the prior art of record. Should there be any questions or issues that could be resolved via a telephone

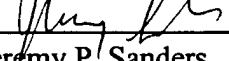
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conversation, Applicant invites the Examiner to contact the undersigned at the number shown below.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: March 11, 2002

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